

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, XT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - DISCUSSION WITH ECAC WORKING GROUP ON
CHARTER PRINCIPLES

REF: (A) STATE 074957 (NOTAL), (B) MILLER-STYLES TELCON
APRIL L8, (3) PARIS 7305 (NOTAL)

1. DOZ INFORMS US THAT TALKS WITH MEADOWS END APRIL ON
CHARTER PRINCIPLES WOULD BE PREMATURE AND EARLIEST ECAC
COULD NOW ENVISAGE SCHEDULING TALKS WOULD BE MID-JUNE.
EVEN MID-JUNE TIMING REMAINS HIGHLY TENTATIVE AT THIS
DATE. DOZ SAID THIS POSITION REFLECTS VIEWS OF VERES
WITH WHOM HE CONFERRED RECENTLY IN LISBON.

2. DOZ GAVE A VARIETY OF REASONS FOR ABOVE POSITION.
HE SAID THAT DEFINITION OF CHARTER PRINCIPLES WAS SLOW
PROCESS IN WHICH ECAC WAS STILL FEELING ITS WAY. FACT
THAT DEADLINE FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHARTER
PRINCIPLES BY ECAC WAS SO DISTANT (SEPTEMBER INTERME-
DIATE SESSION) PERHAPS EXPLAINED WHY FIRM GOVERNMENTAL
POSITIONS HAD NOT YET EMERGED IN WORKING GROUP WHERE
MOST EXPERTS WERE STILL UNABLE COMMIT THEIR GOVERNMENTS
AND WERE REALLY SPEAKING IN LITTLE MORE THAN THEIR OWN
NAME. HENCE, HE SAID, ANY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH US AT
THIS JUNCTURE WOULD ONLY BE "WASTE OF TIME" FOR ALL
CONCERNED IN ABSENCE OF ANY EMERGING CONSENSUS ON ECAC

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SIDE. DOZ ALSO TROTTED OUT ARGUMENTS ABOUT SLOWNESS OF

ECAC INTERNAL MACHINERY UNDER THE BEST OF CONDITIONS, DIFFICULTIES OF COORDINATING CONSULTATION OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR VIEWS, ETC.

3. WE RECALLED THAT DURING NOVEMBER TRILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IT HAD BEEN ECAC DELS WHICH HAD PRESSED FOR EARLY ACTION ON DEFINITION OF CHARTER PRINCIPLES IN CONTEXT OF AGREED PROGRAM OF ACTION. WE FURTHER RECALLED THAT OUR POSITION IN SUBSEQUENTLY ADVOCATING INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AS WORK PROGRESSED HAD BEEN MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO AVERT CONFRONTATION BY PROVIDING EITHER SIDE WITH BENEFIT OF THE OTHER'S THINKING BEFORE FINAL POSITIONS HAD CRYSTALLIZED. WE WONDERED THEREFORE WHETHER IN PRESENT SITUATION IT MIGHT STILL NOT BE USEFUL FOR US TO LEARN PRESENT TREND OF THINKING WITHIN ECAC WORKING GROUP AND FOR ECAC TO LEARN STATE OF OUR THINKING ON THE PROBLEM. WE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT MEETING WITH MEADOWS IN PARIS ON APRIL 29-30 MIGHT BE CONVENIENT EXCUSE FOR ECAC SECRETARIAT TO SOLICIT MEMBER GOVERNMENT VIEWS WHICH WERE NOT YET FORTHCOMING IN AUTHORITATIVE ENOUGH FASHION WITHIN WORKING GROUP. DOZ SAID THAT LATTER IDEA HAD ALSO OCCURRED TO HIM BUT FOR VARIOUS REASONS (UNSTATED) IT HAD BEEN DECIDED NOT TO PURSUE THAT COURSE. IN VIEW OF EVIDENT RELUCTANCE OF DOZ TO RECONSIDER OPPOSITION TO TALKS AT END APRIL OR TOT GO BACK TO VERES ON THIS QUESTION, WE DID NOT PRESS HIM ANY FURTHER. DOZ HOPED THAT DECISION WOULD NOT UNDULY INCONVENIENCE US, ESPECIALLY AFTER EARLIER INDICATION (REF C.) TALKS AT END APRIL MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: ECAC EXCUSES SOUND CONTRIVED. WE WONDER WHETHER VERES (AND DOZ) MIGHT HAVE BECOME WORRIED OVER OUR MOTIVES AND WHAT THEY FEAR THEY COULD BE DRAWN INTO BY SUCH TALKS, WITH RESULT THAT THEY ARE HESITANT TO COMPARE NOTES WITH US UNTIL, IN FACT, A FAIRLY FIRM CONSENSUS HAS BEEN REACHED WITHIN ECAC ON CHARTER PRINCIPLES TO BE PROPOSED. IN VIEW OF SUMMER VACATION PERIOD ANY ECAC POSITION REACHED BY MID-JUNE WOULD PROBABLY BE FAIRLY FIRM FOR PRESENTATION TO SEPTEMBER INTERMEDIATE SESSION OF ECAC. ANY ESTIMATE TO THE CONTRARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RUNS UP AGAINST DOZ' OWN ARGUMENTS BASED ON SLOWNESS OF ECAC INTERNAL PROCEDURES AND CONSULTATION ARRANGMNTS, ETC. IF WE WISH TO PRESS FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO MID-JUNE, THEREFORE, ECAC READINESS TO ENGAGE IN TRILATERAL TALKS ON FARES IN PARIS ON MAY 22 (SEPTEL) AFFORDS US OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST THAT INFORMAL SIDE TALKS ON CHARTER PRINCIPLES ALSO BE SCHEDULED ON THAT OCCASION RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL JUNE.

IRWIN

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